THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The scheme for establishment of a new Radio Station comprising of a 2x10 KW MW transmitter, multi-purpose studio, receiving facilities and staff quarters at Tezpur was approved by the Government in August, 1986. The lead time for completion of projects of this nature is about 3 years after acquisition of the land site. Whereas the requisite equipment has been received and the transmitter building has been constructed, the construction work for the studio could not be commenced in time because of the delay in acquiring the land site from the State Government. The land site for the Studio was taken over on 13th June, 1990. As per the present indications, the project is envisaged to be completed during 1993-94.

SHRI PROBIN DEKA: The hon. Minister is kind enough to lay a statement on the Table of the House, but he has not mentioned the reasons for delay in the completion of this project. Therefore, I request him to commission an AIR station as early as possible.

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: The request is noted; I should further mention that the delay was due to the fact that the State Government did not give us the land.

SHRI PROBIN DEKA: The hon. Minister has stated in his statement that the project is envisaged to be completed during 1993-94. Is it not too long a period? The entire population of the region is suffering for want of AIR station at Tezpur. May I request the hon. Minister to expedite it.

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: It cannot be so. The time for completion of the project is otherwise three years.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTH: An AIR station is established at Silchar in Assam, but no studio has yet been started. May I know from the hon. Minister when a studio is going to be started and what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: This question is limited to Tezpur.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTH: But it is in Assam. This question relates to the State of Assam.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have already put your question.

[*English*]

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: We will look into the matter.

Production of Films by Foreigners in India

+

*784. DR. G.L.KANAUJIA:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreigners allowed to produce feature films in India during 1990; and

(b) the terms and conditions on which permission was accorded and the details of the facilities extended to them in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) The names of foreigners/foreign companies who were allowed to produce feature films in India of their own or in collaboration with Indian producers during 1990 and 1991 are given below:

STATEMENT

Sr. No.	*Title of Film*	*Name of Producer*
1	*2*	*3*
	1990	
1.	Best Interests	M/s. Blaze Productions, U.K.
2.	Follow the Drum	M/s. American Film Resources, USA.
3.	The Well	Mr. Mark Zuber, UK
4.	Blue Crystal	M/s. Dragon Films, Hong Kong
5.	City of Joy	M/s. Lightmotive, UK
6.	The Dark Horse	M/s. Everyman Films Ltd., UK
7.	Annasan	M/s. Love Films International, Dhakka
8.	Kaiser	M/s. Sovexport Films, Moscow
	Co-production:	
1.	Dash Hammet	M/s. M/s. Dharlin Entertainment, USA & M/s. Prabhu Movies, Madras
2.	Electric Moon	M/s. Grapevine Ltd., New Delhi & Channel 4, UK
3.	Blinded by Love	M/s. V.V. Dachin Hsu, California, US & Mr. Pravesh Sippy, Bombay

Sr. No.	Title of Film	Name of Producer
1	2	3
	1991 (Upto August)	
1.	Sweet Surrender	Mr. Rhinferren, USA
2.	Adventure Company	M/s. Mir Films, Moscow
3.	Budha	M/s. Waco Productions Ltd., Japan
4.	Amok	M/s. AB Films, France.
	Co-productions:	
1.	Ele My Friend	Dharlin Entertainment USA & M/s. Prabhu Movies, Madras.

(b) Foreigners are allowed to shoot feature films in India on the basis of an approved script. A Liaison Officer is deputed with the film team who besides helping the film team in obtaining local permissions also ensures that the shooting is done as per the script approved by the Government. After the film is ready, before its release anywhere in the world, it has got to be cleared from the representative of Government of India either in India or abroad.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting extends facilities to foreigners for shooting films in India by granting them permission to import equipments and raw stock and by recommending their case to Ministry of Home Affairs for grant of visa to crew members; to Ministry of Defence for all types of defence assistance and to other concerned departments and State Governments for grant of permission for shooting and extension of other normal facilities.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.L.KANAUJIA: Sir, the hon. Minister said in his reply that the State Governments could be contacted for information. What is that information?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Will you please celebrate?

MR. SPEAKER: Please repeat your question.

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA: As the hon. Minister said, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry extends various facilities and one can contact the concerned Departments. I would like to know the terms and conditions on the basis of which permission is granted and the type of facilities which are provided. What are the rules and regulations regarding shooting. The reply states that the State Governments can be contacted for this purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know the details of facilities being provided to foreigners for shooting films in India.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): There are set rules and regulations and they are in writing. There are several rules, totalling eight in number. I can give them to the hon. Member for his knowledge. I do not want to take the time of the House. I can give him in writing.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: In the matter of granting permission to foreigners for producing films on the soil of India, who are the effective authorities through whom the permission is processed? Is it left to officials? Because quality of presentation of our country in such films is a very important matter.

Can we not have a board of competent people for having some kind of pre-censoring of such films?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: The question of pre-censoring of such films before production does not arise. It is the permission given to foreigners who apply for shooting the films anywhere in India. The precaution taken is that the script is submitted to the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the highest officer in the department. The permission is given after the script is scrutinised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and other concerned Departments whenever required.

SHIRMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Who decides?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: The subject matter is taken into consideration while scrutinizing the script. After the script is approved by the concerned department the permission is granted.

So far as we are concerned, we collect ourselves and take the help of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Foreign Affairs and then the other details are finalised so that the foreign film producers are not put to any difficulty in shooting films in India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply to the question, the honorable Minister has submitted that sixteen foreign films to be shot in India have been provided assistance. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government is providing any assistance to those Indians also who want to shoot films in foreign countries. If so, what are those facilities? Besides this, I would also like to ask one more question whether he is aware of the fact that a film on Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar is proposed to be produced and an application has already been submitted to his Department for seeking Government assistance for shooting the film in foreign countries and if so, will he extend any help to shoot that film in foreign countries?

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Yes. Whenever such applications are made according to the theme if proper locations are required in foreign countries we do help such producers and it depends on the subject matter in which he is going to produce the film in the foreign countries. There are many cases where such permission is given. I can give the list to the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second part of my question has not been answered. A film on Dr. Ambedkar is proposed to be shot in foreign countries. I would like to know if the Government of India would extend any assistance in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: So far as this particular point about the film on Ambedkarji is concerned, it is not within my knowledge. I will find out and write to the hon. Member about the same.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you may take a considerate view.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: I would like to know whether there is a major dispute going on between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the producer of the film Gandhi, Sir Richard Attenborough about the sharing of profits and other things.

MR. SPEAKER: That is different.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: There was a dispute, a long pending one for the last five to six years. That has been resolved. The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting went to London, sat with Mr. Attenborough and the dispute has been resolved. This year we are going to get a little more than Rs. 3 crores immediately and that is specifically given for the purpose of helping cine-artists who are in a bad financial conditions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN; Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that the question raised by Shri Shastri has not yet been answered properly. Nation is celebrating birth centenary of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. In this connection, we have moved a proposal that a film on Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar which should be of an international standard that of the film on Mahatma Gandhi, may be produced. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of the progress made in this regard. If not, will the Government give an assurance to the House that a film on Dr. Baba Sahed Ambedkar would be produced at the same international standard as the film Gandhi was produced.

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, the answer is 'yes'. So far as we are concerned, we are going to help all the producers who have asked for making a film and to make it at an international standard. We are trying to see that it becomes much better than any other previous production.

[*English*]

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Sir, the Minister has replied that the script is first approved by the Government, and then it is cleared by the Government after it is made. I would like to know whether any problem arose in the last three years as far as the clearance of film of the foreign country is concerned.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: There was no problem so far as the Government of India is concerned. But one problem came. After giving clearance to the shooting of the film 'City of Joy', there was some problem so far as the State of West Bengal is concerned. And thereafter they did not want to shoot and further in West Bengal or in Calcutta and seven day shooting. they had to do in London.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, one of the films which had been allowed in 1991 was on "Buddha". Buddha is a great historical personality and the film must be of a very high standard because it relates to our culture, our philosophy and everything. I would like to know who was the head of the Committee, which has cleared the script on 'Buddha. I would like to know whether the Government is satisfied with that script and whether it goes according to our philosophy and according to the great life of Buddha.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, the Government was satisfied with the script and the concern of Department i.e. Ministry of External Affairs and Home Affairs only allowed it. And that is why, permission was granted. And all correspondences are addressed to the Secretary.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister how many cases of infringement of approved script have taken place after shooting of the film during the one year in question and what action the Government has taken.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: No such case of infringement has been brought to our notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to say that if the Members want any statistics as such, which is spread over a very big area, such questions are asked as 'Unstarred questions'.

KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA: Sir, when the foreigner come and shoot for their films, possibly our Hindi films or Indian language films in India, the Government at once gives them a lot of service. When the Indians go abroad for shooting films, does the Government of that country give us that kind of service, like the way we give them?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: So far as we are concerned, we take a very lenient view because there are so much kaleidoscopic variety of culture here and the foreign exchange that being spent in India when the people from outside India come and shoot. In fact , in so far as the film 'City of Joy' is concerned, they wanted to spend 22 million dollars. Out of that, only in the city of Calcutta, it would have been about 12 million dollars.

We not only earn foreign exchange by allowing them to shoot over here but also employment opportunity immediately takes place. Our country is shown outside and there is some relevance in the text also.

So far as our Indian producers there are concerned, we try to see through our Ambassadors and High Commissioners that they get as much facility as possible.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: May I ask the hon.Minister whether earning foreign exchange is more important than our culture?

Therefore, does the Government take special care while finalising the script or whatever comes from the foreign land, that it does not in any way derogate our Indian culture?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Full security takes place regarding the correctness of facts of Indian culture and tradition and also the involvement of foreign exchange.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Government try to give facilities to foreign film shooting companies on a reciprocal basis? That means, if we make arrangements for 10 film shooting in India, they should also provide facilities to our companies for shooting in their countries equal number of films. If some arrangement on this line is made, then our people will also have the same facilities in shooting films in foreign land.

SHR AJIT KUMAR PANJA: This is not on Government to Government basis. It is the private producer who comes. It is a contract with that private producer and if you put any terms, he may not take the liabilities of other producers there coming over here and our producers going there. Therefore, we act as a helping hand. But is it the private enterprise that operates.

[*Translation*]

Broadcast of News Bulletin in Oriya

*785. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news in Oriya language is not broadcast by the Delhi Stations of the All India Radio;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to broadcast news in Oriya language directly from Orissa after Hindi and English news; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). The Central News Bulletins in Oriya are originated from Delhi and relayed by All India Radio Stations in Orissa. This is as per the existing pattern pertaining to all Central News Bulletins, which are produced in different regional languages for relay by All India Radio Stations in respective zones.

(c) There are two news bulletins in Oriya language broadcast by All India Radio, Cuttack from 0705 to 0710 hours and 1850 to 1900 hours and relayed by other stations in Orissa.

There is no proposal to broadcast Oriya news bulletin after Hindi and English news relayed from Delhi

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: May I know from the hon. Minister as to when the Oriya news bulletin will be started on AIR for all over India? Secondly, the standard of Oriya news bulletin is very poor as compared to other languages.

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Standard is not poor. Now we cannot say when it will be started on an all-India level.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: My hon. friend has asked whether in comparison to other languages, the standard of Oriya news buiietin broadcast over All India Radio is very poor. Secondly, due to frequent failure of power supply to the local stations, the local news is being interrupted time and again. When the news bulletin is broadcast over All India Radio, the power supply goes off. As a result people over there are not in a position to listen to the news. So I would like to know from the hon.Minister as to what are the methods to see that the standard is maintained. Sir, in order to restore the power supply, what does the Minister purpose to do to have un-interrupted power supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) Sir, no complaint has been received about the low standard of Oriya news. But, certainly the point made by the hon.Member is noted. So far as the power supply is concerned, I still say, that uptill now we have not received any complaint from any where. But the point is noted.